

Loud & Clear

September 2003

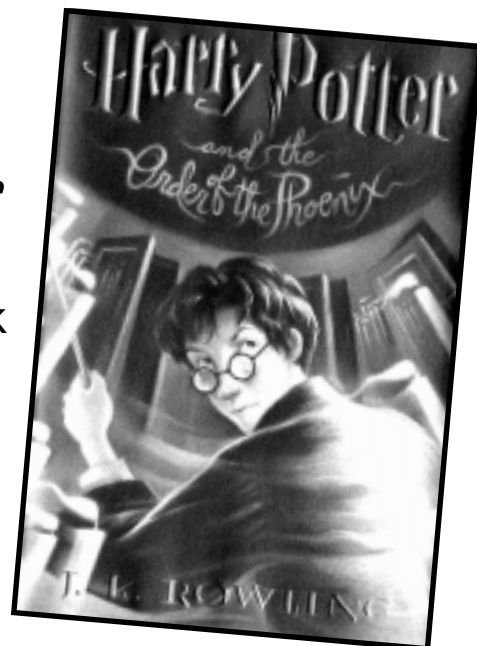
Volume 15, No. 3

This Just In!!!

Reserve your copy of Harry Potter!

Reserve your copy of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (RC 56062) today.

There is a waiting list and it is a long book so we have extra copies. If you are lucky enough to be at the top of the list, please read it and return it as soon as you can so others may enjoy.



In case you missed any of the series:

RC 47260 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

RC 48437 *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

RC 48772 *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

RC 50228 *Harry Potter and Goblet of Fire*

**Fairfax
County
Public
Library**

Access Services

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Audio Description at the Opera

The Metropolitan Washington Ear and the Washington Opera are providing several audio described performances in the upcoming 2003/2004 season. For tickets and the schedule of performances, call Melissa Szabo at 202-295-2445.



Fall for the Book

The Fairfax County Public Library will sponsor appearances by Tobias Wolff, Sharyn McCrumb, Peter Trippi, and others at the 5th annual Fall for the Book Festival September 15-20 at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The free Festival is sponsored by *The Washington Post*, George Mason University, the Associated Writing Programs, the GMU Campus Bookstore, the City of Fairfax, and Barnes and Noble, as well as the Library.

In addition to numerous author programs, a children's carnival, live music, dance and theatre, poetry readings, and writing workshops, the Festival features a used book sale.

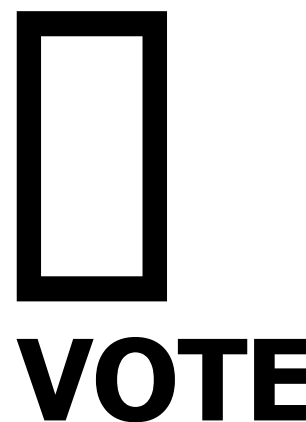
For a complete schedule of events for the six-day Festival, visit the link to the Fall for the Book Festival on the Library's Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Circus of the Senses

Big Apple Circus presents the **Circus of the Senses** at Dulles Town Center on October 1, 2003 at 11:00 am. The entire performance is described in full detail for visually impaired. ASL interpreters convey the content and nuances of the show for users of sign language. At the end of the performance, children with visual impairments have the opportunity for a "touch session". Blocks of complementary tickets are available. Contact information can be found at **www.bigapplecircus.org/CommunityPrograms/CircusOfTheSenses/right.php**.

Voter Registration

Did you know that any citizen can mail in an application to become a registered voter? A Virginia Voter Registration form can be requested from the Registrar at 703-222-0776. It is also possible to request Absentee Ballots if you are ill or disabled. To be registered to vote in the upcoming election, your request must be postmarked 29 days prior to Election Day. When you submit the certified request, the voter will receive all Absentee Ballots for that calendar year. At the end of the calendar year, the voter will be sent another application to complete, but it will not need to be certified again.



NEWS FROM ACCESS SERVICES

Meet our newest Access Services Staff Members

Dorothy Halligan, our newest Readers Adviser, was previously the Circulation Manager at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. She is an avid canoeist and book reader. Her favorite authors include Anita Shreve, Michael Connelly, Joyce Carol Oates, Sue Miller and Wayne Dyer.

Robyn Ramsey is the mother of 2 teenage girls and a Catholic University student working towards a Masters Degree in Library Science. She is a part-time employee and volunteer at our branch. As an employee she helps select, carry, and check out books to our deposit sites. As a volunteer, Robyn is helping to devise teaching modules for computer training for senior adults.

Technology and Resource Fair

We need volunteers to be part of a Technology Fair focus group that Access Services is planning for May 2004. To ensure the success of the Fair, we are looking for input from Access Service customers. To volunteer or to provide input call 703-324-8390.

Receiving Loud and Clear

We have been sending the Access Services quarterly newsletter, *Loud and Clear*, in both large print and on cassette tape formats to all our adult patrons. However, this is the last issue

that will be sent in both formats; beginning with our December issue, adults will receive a tape only, and customers under 18 will receive the print version of this newsletter.

If you are an adult and prefer to receive the newsletter in another format other than cassette, please contact us. You may request the newsletter in Braille, as an e-mail attachment, or in large print. Talking Books users under the age of 18 can request the taped version, Braille or e-mail by contacting us. People who currently receive *Loud and Clear* in Braille or as an e-mail will not be affected by this change.

If you currently receive the newsletter by e-mail, please make sure that we have your correct e-mail address.

Library Information is Translated

"Fast Facts," the Fairfax County Public Library information brochure has been translated into Korean, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Arabic. It is available on the library website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. The Access Services brochure will soon be available in Spanish and Korean. Library card applications will be available in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, and Chinese. Contact Access Services for a supply of any of these translated brochures.

New Audio-Described Videos

Our collection of Audio-Described videos has been expanded with the recent acquisition of the following titles:

A Beautiful Mind

Shrek

Spy Kids

Toy Story

The Wizard of Oz

Saving Private Ryan

Dick Tracy

The Story of Lucy

Schindler's List

Cinderella

El Dorado

Erin Brockovich

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

NOVA: Mystery of the Senses, Vision

NOVA, In Search of Human Origins

Patriot Games

The Piano

Shakespeare in Love

Talking Books customers may request these titles (or a complete list of all titles) and they will be sent by mail. The loan period is 3 days plus mail time.



Computer Instruction

Computer instruction modules will soon be available from Access Services. These modules were developed in conjunction with The Catholic University of America School of Library and Information Science, and partially funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services. These easy to use modules will

help you learn to send and receive e-mail messages and to access the resources of the Fairfax County Public Library. For more information call 703-324-8390.

Computer Camp

Access Services was honored to host a 2-week computer training camp for blind and visually impaired high school students. Melissa Thompson of the



Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) directed the camp. Ryan Cornaire (CLB) was the Technology Trainer and Charles Dee (CLB) contributed his expertise as Career Specialist.

The closing ceremony on August 1, 2003 was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their new skills. Family and friends had the pleasure of viewing a narrated Power Point presentation created by the camp participants. The students learned to use JAWS and other adaptive technology to import information from the Internet into Power Point, which covered the history and importance of various genres of music.

Following the information-sharing portion of the program, the students entertained their guests. Peter Nguamsanith served as Master of Ceremonies. Rachel Mehr, Sharon Kim, and Hyun Joo

Jeong sang. Mario Bonds and Chatora Johnson played musical instruments. The grand finale featured all the students singing "Gone" by 'nSync.

This was the 4th annual Computer Summer Camp and we look forward to seeing our campers again next summer.

What's New

Over the past several months, various Access Services staff members have met with resident councils, staff at County facilities, support groups, and informal gatherings of seniors interested in library service. If you would like to schedule a similar presentation of library resources for your club, church group or community organization contact Jeanette Studley, Branch Manager of Access Services at 703-324-8390.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Magnifiers

A circular available from the National Library Service lists magnifying devices to assist people who have visual impairments. The devices range from simple hand held magnifiers to software that enlarges everything on computer screens. Short descriptions, approximate price ranges, and contact information are included.

Inclusion in the list is not intended to be an endorsement and it is important to consult a low vision specialist before purchasing any assistive devices. The list is helpful as an overview of the many products available to persons with low vision.

The circular is available online at: www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/magnifiers.html or call us to receive a copy.

Closed Circuit magnifiers and Zoom Text computer enhancement are available at all Fairfax County Public Library branches.

Talking Tax Forms

New IRS forms, which the Internal Revenue Service plans to post on its web site next year, will use a software that allows the standard talking text services to read the forms. When you click on the “talking version” of a tax form, the screen readers will read the text. It will also allow the user to type in information (e.g. name) or use the option of speaking the information into the computer. Computer accessibility is important to the IRS, because they actively recruit blind employees.



Web-BLND is now Voyager

The NLS online *International Union Catalog* has migrated to a new system. The new database is called Voyager. It contains the same records that existed in Web-BLND with some technical

changes that enable greater flexibility in searching the catalog and working with results of searches. Voyager has an improved capacity for keyword searching and is updated daily, not weekly. The Text interface uses a text-only design and simpler screen layouts.

Free Braille Instruction

The Endependence Center of Northern Virginia offers a number of services, including free Braille instruction to persons of any age – children to adults. Both classes and individual instruction are available. The Center is located at 3100 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. It can be reached by phone at 703-525-3268 or by e-mail at **info@ecnv.org**. The web site, **www.ecnv.org**, also offers a wealth of information.



American Council of the Blind (ACB)

People of Vision (RC 56115 and BR 14800) by Jim and Marjorie Megivern, tells the unique story of the struggle and creativity that brought ACB into being. In 1961, the American Council of the Blind split with the National Federation of the Blind. For

additional information, including the ACB affiliate in your area, contact the American Council of the Blind at 1-800-424-8666 or visit **www.acb.org**.

Mature Drivers

GrandDriver is a campaign of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to educate senior drivers and their families, friends and caregivers, about the potential challenges older citizens face as they age. Information is provided about the various steps that drivers may take to maintain independence as long as possible. For more information, visit **www.granddriver.info** or call 1-888-472-6303 (toll-free).



The Franconia District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department offers Virginia residents 55 and older enrollment in the Mature Operator's Driver Improvement Program. The eight-hour course covers safe driving information for mature drivers. Upon completion of this course, drivers are eligible for the Virginia State mandated insurance premium reduction. Registration is required and can be done by contacting the MODIP reservations line at 703-924-6588. The fee for this course is \$10.00 per person for books and materials.

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FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual
PT.138